



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **NEARLY \$1 MILLION TRAINING GRANT AWARDED TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY**

*Grant will train laid-off Bay Area workers for  
high-paying energy and advanced manufacturing jobs*

**SACRAMENTO** (June 16, 2006) – California Employment Development Department (EDD) Director Patrick Henning announced today the award of a \$952,000 State Energy Training Grant for the Workforce Development Board of Contra Costa County (WDBCCC) and its partners. The grant will help Bay Area workers dislocated from their jobs transition into high-paying energy and advanced manufacturing jobs in the region.

“This grant will provide new career opportunities for dislocated workers who have recently lost jobs because of continued downsizing in the airline and manufacturing industries,” said Henning. “This project, which is a true partnership of business and government, is another great example of the Governor’s effort to transition our workforce development system into one that is demand-driven and responsive to the needs of employers.”

The grant will go to a consortium of workforce agencies, including the WDBCCC, which spearheaded the grant project. Other workforce agencies that will benefit from the grant include Alameda and San Mateo Counties and the City of Richmond. All of these areas have recently experience large layoffs, particularly in the airline and aerospace industries.

“The Workforce Development Board of Contra Costa County is excited to be receiving this grant,” said Bob Lanter, Executive Director of the WDBCCC. “Our hard work and years of dedication to the manufacturing sector initiative have paid off. We will now be able to assist with training more than 100 dislocated workers throughout the East Bay for skilled and well-paid jobs in these growing industries.”

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As a business-led agency, the WDBCCC is dedicated to meeting the needs of the employers in the East Bay. The grant is a result of the WDBCCC's two-year commitment to meeting the employment needs of the manufacturing industry.

A survey of East Bay business-owners, conducted by the WDBCCC, showed that due to attrition and the retiring, baby-boomer-aged workforce, the manufacturing industry will have approximately 5,000 jobs to fill within the next 7 to 10 years.

The project will not only prepare workers for new jobs, but it will also enhance the ability of the local workforce agencies to meet the emerging labor needs within the region's energy and advanced manufacturing industries.

"The Workforce Development Board of Contra Costa County will be involved in the training process every step of the way," said Lanter. "We will do everything from screening the applicants to assigning workforce board-hired career counselors who will ensure that applicants are placed in jobs at the end of the program."

The consortium will offer skills preparation services, customized classroom training, on-the-job training, and internships to be paid by participating energy, petrochemical, and advanced manufacturing employers.

The partners of the Workforce Development Board of Contra Costa County include:

- Los Medanos College
- Alameda County Workforce Investment Board
- San Mateo County Workforce Investment Board
- City of Richmond
- The Dow Chemical Company
- Shell Martinez Refinery
- USS-POSCO
- United Steelworkers Union-Local 5
- The AMFA
- Chevron
- Conoco-Phillips
- Tesoro
- CEMCO
- Delta Diablo Sanitation District
- Mountain View Sanitary District
- Central Sanitation District
- Ironhouse Sanitary District

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The training services will be provided with Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds drawn from the Governor's 25 percent portion of dislocated worker funds from Title I of the federal WIA. The California EDD exercises oversight authority for the funds.

The WDBCCC is a 37-member, business-led, public-private partnership appointed by the County Board of Supervisors. It is responsible for developing workforce development policy in the county. Its mission is to promote a workforce development system that responds to the needs of the business community, job seekers, workers, and youth. It can be contacted by calling (925) 646-5239 or visiting its Web site at *[www.wdbccc.com](http://www.wdbccc.com)*.

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